

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed on November 10, 2008, the Applicant proposes to amend the claims as shown above. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above proposed amendments and the following remarks.

On pages 2 - 4 of the Official Action, claims 62, 63, 85, 90, 91, 93, 95 - 102, and 107 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Tygard (U.S. Patent No. 5,516,255) in view of Pierre (U.S. Patent No. 3,044,819), while on page 7 of the Official Action, claim 83 was allowed and claims 64, 75, 76, 92, 94, and 103 - 106 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

The Applicant disagrees with the grounds of rejection of claims 62, 63, 85, 90, 91, 93, 95 - 102, and 107 for the reasons given in the amendment filed on July 21, 2008. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 62 has been amended to include all the features of claim 64, which was objected to, thereby putting claim 62 into condition for allowance. Claim 63, 90, 93, and 107 which already depend from claim 62 are therefore also allowable. Claim 64 has been cancelled as redundant since its features are now included in claim 62, and claims 75, 94, and 104 - 106, which previously depended from claim 64, have been amended to depend from claim 62, thereby putting these claims into condition for allowance. The Applicant also proposes to amend claims 95 and 96, which were independent, so as to depend from allowable claim

62 while removing language which is redundant with respect to claim 62, thereby putting these claims and dependent 97 - 102 into condition for allowance. Claim 85, although now allowable, has been cancelled as unnecessary in light of claim 90. The Applicant further proposes to rewrite claim 92, which was objected to, as an independent claim including all the features of base claim 62 and intervening claim 90 so as to put claim 92 into condition for allowance. In addition, the Applicant proposes to rewrite claim 103, which was objected to, as an independent claim including all the features of base claim 62, thereby putting claim 103 into condition for allowance. Accordingly, upon entry of the above proposed amendments, all of claims 62, 63, 75, 76, 83, and 90 - 107 will be in condition for allowance.

In addition to the above amendments, claims 96 - 100 have been amended to change "each pair of clamping arms" to "each pair of opposing clamping arms" to avoid any misunderstanding as to which pairs of clamping arms are being referred to in these claims, and claim 107 has been amended to add "and" before "wherein". The expression "pairs of opposing clamping arms" is found in line 5 of claim 96 prior to this amendment.

The proposed claim amendments are directed solely to cancelling claims, to amending a rejected claim so as to include the features of a claim which was objected to, to changing the claim dependency of certain claims so as to depend from an allowable claim, to rewriting claims which were objected to in independent form, and to clarifying the language of allowable

claims 96 - 100 and 107. Accordingly, the proposed amendments raise no new issues, and entry thereof is appropriate under MPEP 714.13.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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